

A PROTECTIVE DEVICE WITH TAMPER RESISTANT SHUTTERS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a protection device that includes line terminals coupled to a power source disposed in an electric power distribution system. The protection device is configured to protect a portion of the power distribution system from at least one fault condition. The device includes a receptacle member that has includes a housing and a cover. The cover includes receptacle openings configured to accommodate plug contact blades. Receptacle contacts are disposed in the housing. The receptacle contacts are also coupled to the line terminals to thereby establish an electrical connection between the receptacle contacts and the line terminals. Each receptacle contact is in communication with a corresponding receptacle opening. A protective shutter mechanism is integrated into the housing. The protective shutter mechanism is movable from a closed position to an open position upon insertion of the plug contact blades. The protective shutter mechanism is substantially hermetically sealed in the closed position. The protective shutter mechanism is also not movable from the closed position to the open position upon insertion of an object into only one receptacle opening, such that the object is prevented from making contact with the corresponding receptacle contact.